



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MARCH 15TH APPLICATION DEADLINE SET FOR MISSISSIPPI HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

JACKSON, Miss. – The Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) has set March 15th as the deadline for accepting applications for Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Homeowner Assistance Program. Mississippi Gulf Coast homeowners who suffered Hurricane Katrina storm surge damage to their primary residence are encouraged to apply for grant assistance prior to March 15th.

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MDA, the state agency charged with administering the Homeowner Assistance Program, will be conducting a public awareness campaign along the Coast to ensure maximum benefit for homeowners in the three coastal counties as the deadline approaches.

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“We’re asking the public to help us help others by reaching out and assisting neighbors, loved ones, relocated friends, the displaced, elderly or disadvantaged, telling them to file applications as soon as possible,” said Gray Swoope, MDA Executive Director.

This March 15 deadline is for the submission of applications for those specific programs and does not impact the awarding of funds.

For program eligibility information or to apply for a Homeowner Assistance grant, homeowners should visit one of the three Service Centers located in each of the three coastal counties. Additional information can be obtained by visiting www.MSHomeHelp.gov, or by dialing 866-369-6302 to connect with a customer service agent.

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The Homeowner Assistance Program is the Mississippi Development Authority’s first recovery priority. MDA began accepting applications in April 2006 for Phase I of the Homeowners Assistance Program, which is targeted toward homeowners whose residences were outside the federally-defined flood zone but still incurred flood damage. MDA began accepting applications for Phase 2 in July 2006. The second phase is targeted primarily toward low to moderate income homeowners whether inside or outside the flood zone.

With the closing of the Phase 1 and Phase 2 Homeowners Assistance Program, MDA will devote staff resources to other housing programs targeted toward increasing affordable housing availability in Mississippi's three coastal counties, specifically in the public housing, small rental and workforce housing categories. Both the Phase 1 and Phase 2 programs can be viewed on the MDA website: www.mississippi.org, click on "disaster recovery."

To date, the Homeowners Assistance Program has issued checks to more than 18,000 homeowners totaling more than \$1.3 billion. A regularly updated, more detailed breakdown of Homeowner Assistance Program Service Centers operate at the hours and locations provided below:

Jackson County

Singing River Mall
2800 US Highway 90
Suite #1146
Gautier, MS 39553
Mon – Fri, 10am – 6 pm

Harrison County

Prime Outlets – Gulfport
Suite #110
10000 Factory Shops Blvd
Gulfport, MS 39503
Mon – Fri, 10am – 6 pm

Hancock County

3068 Longfellow Drive
Building 27
Bay St. Louis, MS 39520
Mon – Fri, 8am – 6 pm

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